INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

PRECEDENCE

54-51
Action
ARA

DE

FM

TO: Secretary of State

NO:

OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE

DE [illegible] 3012.

DECLARATION STATE OF SIEGE MARCH 28 BY [illegible] GOVERNMENT SUSPENDED CERTAIN CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND GUARANTEES. SUBSEQUENT SUSPENSION ENTIRE CONSTITUTION BY PERALTA AFTER COUP OF COURT DISTRICTS CIVIL LIBERTIES. MARTIAL SUSPENSION HAS AFFECTED FEW GUATEMALANS. ASIDE FROM CURFEW FROM 9 P.M. TO 5 A.M. DAILY, THERE IS FREEDOM MOVEMENT AND BUSINESS AND SOCIAL ACTIVITY NORMAL. COURTS ARE FUNCTIONING AS THEY WOULD UNDER CONSTITUTIONAL STATE OF SIEGE. SOURCES CLOSE TO PERALTA INFORM EMBASSY NEW "CHARTER OF GUARANTEES" WILL BE PROMULGATED WITHIN FEW DAYS RE-ESTABLISHING MOST OF CONSTITUTION.

CENSORSHIP INFORMATION MEDIA APPEARS CONFINED TO PRIOR READING OUTGOING FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS COPY, WITH NO CONFIRMED REPORT REACHING EMBASSY THAT FOREIGN NEWSMEN'S CABLES CUT OR ALTERED (AFTER FIRST FEW HOURS AFTER COUP). HOWEVER, AT LEAST ONE FELT HIS COPY WOULD BE EDITED FUTURE (EMBTEL 3011). FOUR OR FIVE [illegible] RADIO STATIONS, WHICH HAD SERVED AS FOCAL POINTS AND PERPETRATORS OF EXCITEMENT VIOLENCE (TELS, RADIO [illegible] STATIONS THAT ARRIVALS WOULD BE FRUSTRATED BY TECHNICIANS DESPITE COMPLAINTS WHO WOULD ASSUME "NORMALCY" WILL SHORTLY BE RESTORED") WERE CLOSED FOR FEW DAYS AFTER COUP. REPORTEDLY ENTERED WITH UNDERSTANDING THEY WILL NOT BROADCAST PROPAGANDA MATERIAL. IN SOME CASES [illegible] "INTERVIEWS" WITH [illegible] CONFERENCE SPEECHES [illegible] CENSORSHIP. WITH FOREIGN [illegible]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/IR
REVIEWED BY
DATE 31 DEC 1987
DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356
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D.C. [illegible]
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o This copy must be returned to [illegible] control files with no [illegible] REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS [illegible]

ACTION	ASSIGNED	TAKEN	
ASSIGNED TO			DIRECTIONS
NAME OF OFFICER		DATE OF ACTION	TO DM/R
OFFICE SYMBOL			

F800001-1397

CONFIDENTIAL

-2- 643, APRIL 5, 5 PM, FROM GUATEMALA CITY

INCLUDING CRITICAL MATERIAL - APPEARING, ALTHOUGH STATE OF SIEGE WOULD PERMIT STRICT CENSORSHIP IF DESIRED.

EMBASSY HAS NO ACCURATE ESTIMATE NUMBER ARRESTS, BUT IT KNOWN THAT SOME PROMINENT AREVALISTS AND COMMUNIST LEADERS, INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE AREVALIST CONGRESSMAN AND PRINCIPAL DIRECTORS COMMUNIST-DOMINATED FASGUA BEING DETAINED. FOUR OR FIVE NON-COMMUNIST LABOR LEADERS ALSO REPORTEDLY DETAINED, AND AT LEAST ONE RELEASED THIS MORNING ON PETITION LABOR GROUPS. MANY AREVALIST AND EXTREME-LEFTIST LEADERS IN HIDING. IN FIRST FEW HOURS AFTER COUP NUMEROUS POLITICAL FIGURES VARIOUS HUES DETAINED BUT ALL EXCEPT LEADING AREVALISTS AND EXTREMISTS RELEASED SHORTLY. NO CONFIRMED REPORTS ARRESTS GUATEMALANS AS YET ON CHARGES CORRUPTION OF MALFEASANCE, ALTHOUGH JUDICIAL PROCESS BEGUN AGAINST FORMER PROMOTER PETEN DEVELOPMENT (FYDEP) FOR FRAUD INVOLVING GOVERNMENT FUNDS. VERY CONTROVERSIAL COLOMBIAN FRIEND OF YDIGORAS, LUIS MORALES GOMEZ (FINANCE MINISTER IN ROJAS PINILLA GOVERNMENT), ARRESTED FOR INVESTIGATION POSSIBLE ILLEGAL ACTIVITY AS SPECIAL FINANCIAL ADVISOR YDIGORAS. ISSUANCE DECREE LAW NO. 2 YESTERDAY ESTABLISHING COMMISSION INVESTIGATE CHARGES MISUSE OR EMBEZZLEMENT GOVERNMENT FUNDS LEADS TO EXPECTATIONS THAT ARRESTS THESE CHARGES WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

SCP-3.

BELL

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